

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /091 W
-----142018Z 025175 /45

R 141509Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2713
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4329

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJ: PNC: 13 MARCH

REF CAIRO 4256,

1. AT FIRST FULL DAY SESSION OF PNC MARCH 13, ONLY ONE VOTE
WAS TAKEN; I.E., ELECTION OF OFFICIALS FOR THIS
13TH SESSION OF PNC.

(A) PNC CHAIRMAN. KHALID AL-FAHUM RE-ELECTED, DEFEATING
HIS RESJECTIONIST OPPONENT BAHJAT ABU GHARBIYA BY 172 TO 69
WITH 21 ABSTENTIONS. WHILE VOTE APPARENTLY SIGNIFIES CONTINUED
INFLUENCE OF DAMASCUS WITHIN PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT THERE ARE
INDICATIONS THAT ARAFAT DECIDED NOT TO CHALLENGE SARG BY
INTRODUCING HIS OWN CANDIDATE. PREVIOUS REPORTS HAD SUGGESTED
THAT ARAFAT HAD CANDIDATE IN MIND FROM FAHAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
RELIABLE US JOURNALIST TELLS US THAT 69 VOTES AGAINST
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FAHUM OVER REPRESENTS REJECTIONIST STRENGTH, SINCE SOME DELS
ARE SAYING THAT THEY VOTED FOR REJECTIONIST IN PROTEST AGAINST
SYRIAN EFFORTS DOMINATE PLO, BUT IF THEY HAD THOUGHT ELECTION
WOULD BE CLOSE, THEY WOULD HAVE BACKED FAHUM.

(B) DEP CHAIRMEN. SA'IQA'S MAHMUD TIM AND FAHAT CENTRAL
COMMITTEE MEMBER SALIM ZA'NUN WERE ELECTED. VOTE FOR SA'IQA

OFFICIAL FURTHER UNDERSCORES SARG INFLUENCE, SINCE AS ADDRESSEES WELL AWARE, SA'IQA TOTALLY DISCREDITED IN PALESTINIAN CIRCLES AS AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY AND WIDELY REGARDED AS CREATURE OF DAMASCUS.

(C) SEC GEN. MUHAMMAD SUBAYH SLECTED, AFFILIATION UNKNOWN.

(D) EXCOMM. STRONG RUMORS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THAT EXCOMM LIKELY BE EXPANDED, AND ALSO MANDATED TO MAKE HARD DECISIONS ON GOVT IN EXILE AND MEPC ATTENDANCE, WERE ECHOED TO US AS SURE THING MARCH 14 BY FAHMY'S OFFICE DIR AL-BAZ AND SENIOR ASSISTANT SYG OF ARAB LEAGUE. WHEN CHARGE ASKED AL-BAZ WHEN NEW EXCOMM MIGHT BE EXPTECTED ANNOUNCE ITS GOVT IN EXILE, AL-BAZ REPLIED WITHIN SIX MONTHS. (COMMENT: TWO BASIC QUESTIONS REMAIN MOOT: WILL ARAFAT LAY HIS HEAD ON BLCK BY ACCEPTING EXPANDED MANDATE AND WILL HE EVENTUALLY ACCEDE TO GOVT IN EXILE WHICH WILL INEVITABLY DILUTE HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN MOVEMENT.)

2. REJECTIONIST MANEUVERING. THERE IS APPARENTLY A DOCUMENT CIRCULATING ADVOCATING STRICT ADHERENCE TO CHARTER INCLUDING REAFFIRMATION ARMED STRUGGLE AS LEGITIMATE METHOD RESTORE ALL PALESTINE AND WHICH ADDS, IN WHAT SOUNDS LIKE TRADITIONAL ARAB NATIONALIST MOVEMENT PHRASEOLOGY, A RECOMMENDATION TO OVER-THROW HUSAYN. THIS MAY BE DOCUMENT TO WHICH AL-BAZ WAS REFERRING THWNE HE TOLD CHARGE THAT HABASH AS SENT MESSAGE TO PNC WARNING THAT IF EXCOMM GIVEN MANDATE TO MAKE KEY DECISIONS, HE WILL FORMALLY WITHDRAW HIS DELS FROM PNC AND PROCLAIM HIMSELF THE TRUE CHAIRMAN OF PLO.

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3. PERSONALITIES. PNC OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN MAHMUD LABUDI (FATAH) ADDED FUEL TO RUMORS THAT QADDUMI MAY BE EASED OUT BY TELLING PRESS MARCH 12 THAT QADDUMI HAS NOT RESIGNED. AHRAH NOTES THAT A HIGHER POLITICAL COMMAND WILL BE FORMED UNDER ARAFAT, INCLUDING ALL ARMED COMMANDO ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING OUT UNIFIED POLITICAL PROGRAM. IT OCCURS TO US THAT KHALID AL-HASAN, WHO IS QUOTED AS SAYING PRESENT SITUATION REQUIRES UNIFICATION PALESTINIAN FORCES, MAY FIND HIS ROLE IN THIS NEW POLITICAL COMMAND.

MATTHEWS

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